

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: (Response inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Schmit, on the amendments, committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I'm only going to speak briefly on the amendment and then I will speak again on the bill. It is kind of ironic, I would believe, I think you'll have to agree with me, that we are going to have an amendment to the bill that will provide for the soil and water conservation fund an amount that is roughly equal to the amount of money which the Appropriations Committee has provided to the Attorney General to litigate the Deer Creek lawsuit. The original bill was for a little over \$6 million, 6.9 million, I believe. And that amount, in my estimation, is not adequate, or was not adequate. I do not argue with the Appropriations Committee about their priorities. I can only tell you that from my point of view and the point of view, I believe, of most of the people who regard soil and water conservation as a very necessary part of the activity in the State of Nebraska, and as a responsibility of this Legislature, that we are not providing adequately to protect that resource. At the present time, we have an abundance of water and we have some concern about the erosion that takes place on our soils. But there will come a time when there may not be sufficient water, there may come a time when the soil erosion factor will be so severe as to be of major concern to members of this body. Then, as always, we will enact a crash program. We will throw caution to the winds and we will proceed full speed ahead to appropriate large sums of money to try to correct a problem which at that time may not be correctable. This is one of those rare years when there is actually a surplus of funds in the budget. I have not even embarked upon my usual calculation of surplus cash funds in the various entities, agencies, but I would assume that there is some additional cash there in addition to those funds that we have listed as surplus at the present time. I had hoped that the Appropriations Committee would view more graciously, more generously, LB 1160. I would have to say that I am concerned that members of this body accept as fact whatever comes from the Appropriations Committee. We find very little debate, we find very little argument and we find almost total acquiescence to what comes from that committee. I would hope that it would not